

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

1201 Sixteenth Street N W Washington D C

VOL. 1

JANUARY 1934

No. 8

National Convention

Theme: The Future of the Forgotten Child

NATIONAL CONVENTION! A time for renewing friendships and stimulating fresh enthusiasm! For coming into personal contact with other parent-teacher leaders from all parts of the United States. For taking part in conferences. For witnessing in action the organization representing the parents and teachers of America.

Whether you be a P.T.A. president, a member, a parent, a teacher, or simply an interested friend of children, a Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will have something to help you.

The 38th Annual Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in Des Moines, Iowa, May 13-19, 1934, will bring together parent-teacher workers from all sections of the country. Outstanding speakers in the fields of education and child welfare will be there.

Centrally located as the Convention City is—almost in the very heart of the country—it is easily accessible from east, west, north, south. For this reason, the number of delegates to the Convention will undoubtedly be large.

Another reason for unusual interest in the 1934 Convention lies in the fact that this is election year. Electing the national officers who will guide the destiny of the organization for the next few years is a tremendously important matter and one in which every Congress member will be interested.

Begin Now! Plan to attend the Thirty-eighth Annual Convention of the

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS, DES MOINES, IOWA,

MAY 13-19, 1934

N.C.P.T. Radio Programs

Each Friday afternoon, 3:30-4:00, E.S.T., over Station WEAf and the red network of the National Broadcasting Company.

JANUARY 12

AIMS AND IDEALS OF PARENTS IN MODERN LIFE. Mrs. Hugh Bradford, President, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

JANUARY 19

DO PARENTS NEED EDUCATION? Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Chairman of Parent Education, N.C.P.T.

JANUARY 26

DOES THE LAW PROTECT THE CHILD? Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, First Vicepresident, N.C.P.T., and Miss Jessie Binford, Superintendent, Juvenile Protection Association, Chicago.

FEBRUARY 2

RESTLESS YOUNG PEOPLE. Miss Alida C. Bowler, Chairman of Juvenile Protection, N.C.P.T.

FEBRUARY 9

VALENTINES. Mr. Newell W. Edson, Chairman of Social Hygiene, N.C.P.T.

FEBRUARY 16

HEALTH HABITS OF THE HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT. Miss Mary Murphy, Chairman of Child Hygiene, N.C.P.T., and Dr. Caroline Hedger, Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund.

A significant development in its parent education program is the series of weekly radio programs to be broadcast by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers through the cooperation of the National Broadcasting Company during January, February, and March.

The programs will be broadcast over the red network of N.B.C. each Friday afternoon, for 12 consecutive weeks, from 3:30 to 4:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, as a part of the Radio Review, directed by Mrs. Claudine Macdonald. Parent-teacher leaders, educators, and specialists in various fields of child welfare will be heard. A musical program is included in the Radio Review.

(Continued on Page 3.)

Founders Day— February 17

Founders Day will be observed on February 17 by many of the 20,000 units of the National Congress of Parents and teachers. Birthday candles will be lighted with impressive ceremonies, and appropriate pageants, playlets, and demonstrations will lend color to the occasion. Throughout the land, attention will be focused on the parent-teacher movement, its origin, development, and future.

It is especially fitting this year that each parent-teacher association impress upon its members the high purpose for which it exists. During the trying times of the past few years, as never before, parent-teacher associations have devoted themselves to the service of childhood.

"On Founders Day, we happily pay tribute to the founders whose vision was so exalted," says Mrs. Hugh Bradford, National President. "Today we can pay no greater tribute to our founders than by giving our loyalty and service to the movement which they established. From our founders have come our inspiration and ideals. It is ours to carry on, whatever conditions may confront us."

(Material for Founders Day programs may be obtained from the National Office.)

P.T.A. at N.E.A. Convention

"The Dependent School Child—Who Is Responsible for His Health, School Attendance, Safety, and Social Well-Being?" This subject will be discussed at the parent-teacher section of the Department of Superintendence convention in Cleveland, February 28, at 2 P.M., in the City Auditorium. Mrs. Hugh Bradford, President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, will preside.

• • • National Committees At Work • • •

Motion Picture Policy

Previewing and listing motion pictures is *not* included in the program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. This fact is emphasized in a formal statement recently issued for the purpose of clarifying misunderstandings which have arisen because of misuse of the name of the organization in publications issued in connection with the motion picture industry.

The Executive Committee at its Chicago meeting voted to emphasize this statement through various publicity channels. Single copies of the statement may be obtained by writing to the National Office.

Thrift

A Benjamin Franklin program during Thrift Week, January 17-23, is suggested by Mrs. Ella Carruthers Porter, National Thrift Chairman. "Thrift is not a matter of saving money, but a great educational factor imperative to success and happiness," believes Mrs. Porter. "Education in thrift should teach every child how to earn; how to save; how to invest; how to give; how to spend money; how to use time; how to use energy. As we build the ideals of thrift we build character."

* * * *

Executive Committee Action

Emergency Federal relief for public schools should be extended to all states needing such aid. This opinion was embodied in a resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers at its mid-winter meeting in Chicago, January 2-5. A request that the Congress of the United States be urged to enact legislation to provide such emergency relief was telegraphed to the United States Commissioner of Education, Dr. George F. Zook, on January 3. (On January 6, the Federal Advisory Committee on the Emergency in Education passed a resolution asking that \$50,000,000 be allocated to emergency needs in the several states in order to refinance the schools.)

The Executive Committee adopted a resolution opposing the return of the saloon "in any form, or under any name."

Music

Songs to be sung by the National Mothersingers Chorus at the Des Moines Convention in May have been announced by Miss Mayme E. Irons, National Music Chairman.

Miss Irons says: "The numbers selected for the mothersingers chorus are not difficult and even newly organized groups should be able to handle them without serious difficulty. Many mothersingers will be able to attend the Des Moines Convention, because of its central location, and have the thrilling experience of the national chorus. Whether or not groups can attend the National Convention, it is highly desirable to follow the national plans. Each local should feel that it is keeping pace with the nationwide trend in music in our organization."

Fathers are singing too. Miss Irons points out that the fathersingers chorus movement is growing in scope and interest, and she has suggested a list of four numbers appropriate for almost any occasion.

Suggested lists for both mothersingers and fathersingers may be obtained from the National Office by inclosing postage with your request.

* * * *

Emblem Use Suggested

The P.T.A. emblem may well be used to direct visitors to meetings, it is suggested by Mrs. Joseph E. Morcombe, Publicity Chairman, California Congress, who says:

"Organizations like the Rotary, Kiwanis, and others have replicas of their emblems displayed prominently, so that every visitor to the city, town or village is readily directed to the place of meeting.

"If a replica of the parent-teacher emblem were displayed in front of every school house when the parent-teacher group is in session, the public in general would soon become acquainted with the emblem. Information as to time and place of meeting would attract visitors.

"The emblem may be hung over or near the entrance nearest the room in which the session is held, and, in the halls, smaller emblems may be used to point the way to the meeting place."

Children's Reading

Reading aloud and telling stories in the home to bind the family together, as a substitute for commercialized amusements, is suggested by Miss Clara W. Herbert, Associate Chairman of Home Education, as the keynote for children's reading this year. Among the services rendered by books, Miss Herbert lists the following:

Good Books—

- Furnish correct information.
- Bind the family together in common interest if read aloud.
- Help to maintain morale.
- Substitute for recreation which cannot be afforded.
- Help to develop hobbies.
- Furnish wholesome occupations for leisure time.

Humane Education

"A most satisfactory year" is reported by Mrs. Jennie R. Nichols, Humane Education Chairman. She suggests that Mrs. Roosevelt's comments against giving warlike toys to children, in the January *Woman's Home Companion*, are in line with the program of the Humane Education Committee.

* * * *

Random Notes

A membership increase of 10,000 is the goal of the Minnesota Congress this year.

* * *

Goals to indicate the type of work progressive parent-teacher associations should be doing have been set up to replace the requirements for standard and superior associations next year.

* * *

Two new leaflets on rural life, by Dr. William McKinley Robinson, Chairman of Rural Service, will be published soon by the National Congress. They are "The Rural Parent-Teacher Association" and "Home Play in Rural Areas."

* * *

Mrs. A. F. Wood, President, Texas Congress, has been appointed chairman of the Committee on Resolutions.

Active Rural Unit

Even the busy little bee might learn a lesson in diligence from the activities of the Little Red School House Parent-teacher Association:

"The Little Red School is a one-room, one-teacher, rural superior school with an enrolment averaging 25 pupils. Our association, consisting of 18 members, started the year's work with a school of instruction for all officers and chairmen and a careful study of what we wanted to accomplish. We chose citizenship and world goodwill as our objective and a program covering our school association improvement was carried out through the year under the group discussion method.

"A publicity recordbook was kept and sent to the state and then to the Seattle Convention.

"In September we sponsored a dental clinic and in October 90 percent of the children received inoculation for diphtheria and vaccinated for smallpox.

"In December the annual Christmas party with tree presents and supper was held for the children and their families.

"In January our 'Mothers' Study Club' was formed, which used the Child Welfare Parent Education Study Course. Socials were held twice a month in the school room which became a social center for the neighborhood.

"A suitable Founders Day program was carried out and the birthday cake was sold for \$2.10 for our gift. Cooperating with the local library the children's library was kept supplied with interesting reading.

"Throughout the year groups of three girls or boys prepared and served refreshments at the close of the regular P.T.A. meetings.

"In May an excellent exhibition of their year's work was arranged by the teacher and was well attended by parents and friends.

"The annual meeting was in June and the year's work concluded with a picnic for P.T.A. and children, at which well-planned games, races, and contests were held under the supervision of our Recreation chairman."

MRS. WESLEY D. SCOTT, President, Little Red School P.T.A., in the Vermont Parent-Teacher Bulletin.

Relief Funds Available

Federal Civil Works funds have been made available in each state for various educational projects. Adult education, vocational rehabilitation, nursery schools, and school building repair and improvement are included in the nationwide program to put unemployed men and women to work. Relief funds are being used to provide hot lunches in school for needy children in many schools. More than 1400 pupils in District of Columbia schools are being fed daily in a citywide lunch program of the Emergency Relief and Civil Works Administrations, thus relieving parent-teacher associations which have formerly assumed responsibility for this work. Members will continue to assist in serving the lunches in some schools.

The United States Commissioner of Education, Dr. George F. Zook, urges the cooperation of school authorities in furthering the emergency educational program.

Parent-teacher associations desiring to lend their cooperation in securing wise expenditure of relief funds in their community should investigate the possibility of securing funds through local relief administrators.

If you know of instances where relief funds are being used to carry on projects formerly financed by the P.T.A., please send this information to the National Congress Bulletin.

* * *

(Radio Programs Continued from Page 1)

Last minute changes in radio program plans sometimes become necessary. Although changes are avoided, precedence must be given occasionally to extraordinary interesting events which arise after radio program schedules have been published. Where the time is short, it is impossible for advance publicity to be given to such changes. Because of this contingency, publicity chairmen and others interested in radio programs announced by the National Congress from time to time are advised to check with their local radio stations to verify dates and hours.

Single mimeographed copies of addresses by speakers on these radio programs will be available free from the National Office. Postage should be inclosed with requests. It is hoped that listeners will respond with comments and suggestions on the broadcasts.

College P.T. Courses

Two New Jersey colleges — Rutgers, at New Brunswick, and New Jersey State Teachers College, at Trenton — will offer parent-teacher credit courses during the winter semester. Mrs. Arthur C. Watkins, Education Secretary, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, will serve as instructor for both courses. The class at Rutgers will meet each Friday evening from 7:30 to 8:40 beginning February 2, and the class at Trenton will meet each Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 beginning February 1.

Information about credit courses in other colleges and universities will be appreciated by the National Office.

* * *

New Pamphlets

The following new pamphlets recently received at the National Office may be of interest to parents and teachers.

Available from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.:

The Home Project in Homemaking Education. Prepared by Jane Hinkley Blake and Florence Fallgatter, under the direction of Dr. Adelaide Baylor, Chief of the Home Economics Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, and Chairman of Homemaking, National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Price 15c.

The Deepening Crisis in Education. Prepared by the Office of Education. Price 5c.

Highschool Instruction by Mail. Prepared by Walter H. Gaumnitz, Senior Specialist in Rural Education Problems, Office of Education. Price 10c.

Others:

A Program for an Undernourished Child. Prepared by the Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C. Free.

The Serious Situation in the School, a flier issued by the U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C. Free.

Searchlights. A monthly circular, compiled by Ellen C. Lombard, Associate Specialist in Parent Education, U. S. Office of Education, and Chairman of Home Education, National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Free from the Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

News From the State Branches

Arkansas

Fifteen district directors will receive instruction and make plans for their spring district conferences at a Directors Institute in Little Rock the latter part of January. Posters and exhibits of National Congress publications, including the five-panel exhibit, the parent education exhibit, and program posters, have been ordered for this meeting. A set of posters will be made for each district director. "By giving our district directors this help and thorough instruction in the use of publications, we expect them to develop further posters in making presentation of the work more interesting," writes Mrs. Scott Wood, State President.

Colorado

County councils will edit the *Colorado Parent-Teacher* for several months. Larimer County edited the December issue.

Georgia

A "Committee of Eleven" has been appointed by the *Georgia* Congress to cooperate with a similar committee of the *Georgia* Education Association in furthering the educational program of the state. An education rally was held in every county of the state during American Education Week.

Idaho

A citizens council, representing educational, fraternal, religious, and social organizations, was recently formed under the auspices of the Twin Falls, *Idaho*, Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. The new group went on record as favoring the promotion of world peace, as one community problem to be studied by this group.

Oregon

In response to protests of the *Oregon* Congress against cigarette advertising in newspaper comic pages because they are read intensively by children, one Portland newspaper editor wrote: "We were under contract with the advertiser to put these advertisements in for a period which would not expire until

after January 1, but we took the matter up with the advertiser, who has cooperated by consenting to a cancellation of the contract effective after the insertion of the November 26 copy." The other editor also wrote that they had arranged for cancellation of their contract effective December 2.

Pennsylvania

In conjunction with the *Pennsylvania* Congress of Parents and Teachers, the state teachers colleges are sponsoring a parent-teacher meeting in each of the institutions. Since each institution is responsible for a well-defined professional service area, all parent-teacher associations within the service area have been invited to meet at the state teachers college for a two-day session.—*Public Education Bulletin*.

South Dakota

The Membership Committee of Mitchell High-Central association conducted a "Commodity Sale" by means of which individuals sending in clothing, canned goods, chickens, vegetables, baked beans, other baked goods, etc., paid their own dues and in many cases the dues of others. As a result at the end of Membership Week, October 7, the membership exceeded by 20 percent the total membership of last year.—*South Dakota Parent-Teacher*.

Mississippi

The General P.T.A. of Greenwood sponsors a "Book Relief Department." Children whose parents cannot buy books are furnished all equipment for school work free of charge. A complete record of each child and all books loaned is kept, and books must be returned at end of school term.

A new department was instituted this year where a child could exchange books he did not need for those he did need, or was permitted to buy a used book at half-price.

New Jersey

A radio program for Italian mothers who understand the Italian tongue better than English is being broadcast over Station WAAT.

Talks in Italian by physicians and educators are featured. These talks are sponsored by the *New Jersey* Congress.

New York

New York State Congress has been concentrating on adequate support for education, and is working to secure the full amount of state aid allotted to all municipalities of the state as well as for adequate local appropriations for education.

New York state has a scientifically planned State Aid Law, devised to equalize educational opportunity throughout the state.

Utah

Activities of Room Mothers in Salt Lake City reported by Mrs. J. S. Twigey, Room Mother Chairman:

Assisted in teaching at and establishing new play centers; sent extra lunches to the schools; established free milk, soup, and hot lunch counters; made and remodeled clothes and quilts; assisted at the make-work centers; established magazine and book exchanges; acted as reception committee at meetings and socials; acted as telephone committee; made costumes for school entertainments; made emblems for Bugle corps; acted as hostesses on school visiting days.

Washington

Mrs. M. D. Wilkinson, President *Washington* Congress, made the following recommendations to the state board at their fall board meeting: (1) preservation of our own organization; (2) sympathetic and wholehearted support of public school system; (3) promotion of extensive parent education programs; (4) asking for Parent Teacher Week, February 17, by proclamation of Governor Martin.

Wisconsin

A list of 20 reasons *Why I Belong to the State and National Congress of Parents and Teachers*, by Mrs. W. A. Hastings, President of the *Wisconsin* Congress, has been distributed to local units in *Wisconsin*.